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Long Island was an act of military folly and that the effort, by fighting, to keep Howe out of Philadelphia was as foolhardy as it was unnecessary. The illuminating criticism with which Mr. Adams dissects the campaigns of 1775, 1776, and 1777 makes his work a most welcome contribution to the proper understanding of these years. Every student of American history must feel gratitude for these papers and regret that the author did not deal with the later campaigns in the same way, the more especially since in 1781 he admits that the same Washington who heaped blunder on blunder in 1777, "carried out with prescience, judgment, skill and energy", a plan that was "boldly as well as brilliantly conceived". One need not be under the sway of the Washington myth, to suspect that the quality of the troops and the fullness of the other means at his disposal had rather more to do than Mr. Adams seems to imply with the failures of 1776 and 1777 and the success of 1781. It may even be doubted whether Napoleon, Frederick, or Wellington could have accomplished a great deal more than Washington did with such troops as he commanded in New York and Pennsylvania, even although we may fully agree with Mr. Adams that they would have made none of the blunders he so relentlessly points out.

THEODORE CLARKE SMITH.

*Social Forces in American History.* By A. M. SIMONS. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1911. Pp. ix, 325.)

THIS book was evidently written to illustrate a theory. The theory is Marx's economic interpretation of history, with its social class struggle, the rise of capitalism, the creation of a proletariat, and the inevitable social revolution. The author has examined American history with a view to ascertaining how far it can be made to fit into this theory. His aim is to discover those "social forces" which, according to his theory, are the fundamental factors in social evolution. Naturally he finds what he is looking for. Behind every great event in our history stalks the capitalist in some of his many guises, always seeking to gain some advantage for his class, and to exploit the masses. Everywhere appear contending social classes with their separate material interests and developing "class consciousness", each struggling to control the government and make use of its powers to gain some economic advantage. The Causes of Colonization are found in the social upheaval in Europe incident to the rule of the merchant class, which "was the first division of the capitalist army". "As fast as the merchant or manufacturing class obtained power, its members set about divorcing the former serfs and peasants from the soil . . . in order that the workers might be 'free' to hunt for employers. So it was that the people were being driven out of their ancient homes" to the colonies. The Revolution is explained in the same way. "It was, in reality, but one battle of a great world-wide struggle between contending social classes." "At

every point the industrial life of the colonies had reached the stage where it was hampered and restricted by its connection with England. Large classes of the population required an independent government to further their interests. . . . In these great basic facts and fundamental conflicts of interest do we find the causes of the Revolution, and not in petty quarrels over insignificant taxes and abstract principles of politics." The group of political changes after the Revolution which resulted in the adoption of the Constitution was an event of the same character, and grew out of the same kind of situation. The men whose special class interests had demanded and secured separation from England found that they needed a stronger government to secure and promote those interests. "To collect debts, public and private, to levy a tariff for the benefit of infant industries, to protect the fisheries and pay bounties to the fishers, to assist the Southern planter in marketing his crops, and to secure commercial treaties and guard commercial interests in all parts of the world a centralized government was needed. Those who desired such a government were, numerically speaking, an insignificant minority of the population, but, once more, they were the class whose interests were bound up with progress toward a higher social stage." "The wage working, farming and debtor class naturally had no desire for a strong government. These desired above all relief from the crushing burden of debt", and sought it in "new issues of paper money, stay laws and restrictions on the powers of the courts". "They were an overwhelming majority, but they lacked cohesion, collective energy, and intelligence,—in short, class consciousness." "The little group of individuals who best represented the ruling class, and who dominated throughout the Revolution, were to a large extent losing control. They now set about recapturing it through a secret counter revolution." Thus the Constitution is declared to have been "called into existence through a conspiratory trick, and was forced upon a disfranchised people, by means of a dishonest apportionment, in order that the interests of a small body of wealthy rulers might be saved". In the true spirit of "scientific socialism" we are told that this "should not blind us to the fact that this small ruling class really represented progress", since a unified government was essential to the industrial and social growth of this country.

These examples are sufficient to show the general tone of the book. The other great events in our history are dealt with in the same manner. There are chapters on the Rule of Commerce and Finance, the Rule of Plantation and Frontier, the Westward March of the People, the Birth of the Factory System, the Condition of the Workers, the Youth of Capitalism, the Crisis of the Chattel Slave System, and finally the Triumph and Decadence of Capitalism. Everywhere the same influences are at work and the same class struggle is to be discerned. It is impossible here to find space to criticize any of these views in detail and show wherein they fail to explain the events to which they are applied.

Moreover it is unnecessary to do this for professional students of history. To work out the causal connection between events is the most difficult, as well as the most important part of the work of the historian, and no one who has attempted to do it is likely to have much faith in such generalizations as form the fundamental ideas of this book. As a socialist *tour de force* it has interest. The author has certainly taken pains to inform himself concerning the facts of American history. He has read with care most of the standard authorities and the monographic literature, and has dipped into the original material to a considerable extent. He has shown skill too in marshalling his facts so as to illustrate his theory. Those who already have faith in this theory and those who are concerned to combat it will no doubt read the book with interest if not with profit. But as a serious attempt to deal with history in a scientific spirit, to really do what the title implies, discover those influences which have worked beneath the surface to mould our social evolution and determine the events of our history, it can hardly be said to have any value at all.

GUY S. CALLENDER.

*A History of the American Bar.* By CHARLES WARREN of the Boston Bar. (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company. 1911. Pp. xii, 586.)

THIS is a book of great value to all scholars of American jurisprudence and to all practitioners who are interested in their profession. As described by the author in his preface, it is an historical sketch rather than a history. It seems to be an enlargement of parts of an address at some law school anniversary and, as is not unusual in such a case, features are left in the arrangement which are more appropriate to the original draft than to the present form. A number of quotations from earlier authorities in support of propositions are left in the text, instead of having been transferred to the notes. This is also the case with a number of illustrations not of sufficient interest to fatigue the attention of a casual reader, for which the notes are the proper place. These are not uncommon blemishes in the literary productions of a brief-maker. The greater part of chapters I. and VII. and other matter concerning the history of the bar in England, although suitable for such a discourse, seem to have no proper place in this history.

The most useful parts of the publication are, the catalogue of the leading members of the bar from the earliest colonial times to 1860, with the dates of their births and the official positions that they occupied; the enumeration of the leading text-books by American lawyers, with the dates of publication, which, we believe, have never previously been collected; the bibliographies attached to the chapters describing the bars of the colonies and of the states during the first quarter of a century since the Declaration of Independence; and the history of the origin